b ## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS ~~CLAIMS~~

1.   A method of controlling a server connected to the internet, comprising the steps of

5   receiving a file request from a user over the internet;

determining if the file request includes an identification signal identifying the origin of the file request;

comparing any said identification signal with one or more predetermined identification signals; and

10   deciding what file if any is to be transmitted to said user in dependence upon said determining and comparing steps, and if in the deciding step it is decided that a file is to be transmitted, transmitting said file from said server to said user.

2.   A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the file request conforms to the
15   hypertext transfer protocol.

a 3.   A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said file is transmitted only if a said identification signal matches a said predetermined identification signal.

a 20 4.   A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the file transmitted from said server is the file requested by the user if a said identification signal matches a said predetermined identification signal, otherwise the file transmitted is a dummy file.

5.   A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said dummy file contains a warning
25   that access to the requested file has been denied.

a 6.   A method as claimed in claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~ wherein said dummy file has a substantially smaller size than the file requested by said user.

a 30 7.   A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein a look-up table contains said one or more predetermined identification signals and identifies the files which can be accessed by the or each predetermined identification signal.

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8.   A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the server has digitised image files or distributed sound files available for transmission over the internet, and the file requested is an image file or a sound file.

5   9.   A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the file requested is a hypertext mark up language file, the method including the step of determining what hypertext mark up language file is to be transmitted to said user in dependence upon the comparison step.

10   10.   A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said determining step comprises selecting a hypertext mark up language file for transmission from a plurality of stored hypertext mark up language files.

11.   A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said determining step comprises
15   generating a hypertext mark up language file for transmission in dependence upon the comparison step.

12.   A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein said identification signal and said predetermined identification signal comprise hypertext transfer
20   protocol identification signals.

13.   A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said hypertext transfer protocol identification signal identifies as the origin a hypertext mark up language file being run by said user's terminal to generate said web page.

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14.   A method as claimed in claim 12 ~~or claim 13~~ wherein said hypertext transfer protocol identification signal comprises the universal resource locator for a hypertext mark up language file being run by said user's terminal.

30   15.   An internet server for connection to the internet comprising

receiver means for receiving a file request from a user over the internet;

determining means for determining if the file requested includes an identification signal identifying the origin of the file request;

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comparison means for comparing any said identification signal with one or more predetermined identification signals;

decision means responsive to said comparison means for deciding what file if any is to be transmitted to said user; and

5 an output for outputting a file for tranmission to said user if said decision means decides that said file is to be transmitted.

16. An internet server as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the receiving means is adapted to receive file requests conforming to the hypertext transfer protocol.

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17. An internet server as claimed in claim 15 ~~or 16~~ wherein said decision means is adapted to only transmit said file if a said identification signal matches a said predetermined identification signal.

15 18. An internet server as claimed in claim 15 ~~or 16~~ wherein said decision means is adapted to transmit the file requested by said user if a said identification signal matches a said predetermined identification signal, or else to transmit a dummy file.

19. An internet server as claimed in claim 18 wherein said decision means is 20 adapted to transmit said dummy file containing a warning that access to the requested file has been denied.

20. An internet server as claimed in claim 18 ~~or claim 19~~ wherein said dummy file has a substantially smaller size than the file requested by said user.

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21. An internet server as claimed in claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 20~~ including storage means for storing a look-up table containing said one or more predetermined identification signals and one or more files which can be accessed by the or each predetermined identification signal.

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22. An internet server as claimed in claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 21~~ wherein said internet server has digitised image files or digitised sound files stored in a storage means and available for transmission over the internet, said first receiver means

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being adapted to receive a file request for a digitised image file or a digitised sound file.

23.   An internet server as claimed in claim 15 wherein said first receiver means
5   is adapted to receive a file request for a hypertext mark up language file; including determining means responsive to said comparison means for determining what hypertext mark-up language file is to be transmitted to said user.

24.   An internet server as claimed in claim 23 including storage means for storing
10 a plurality of hypertext mark-up language files wherein said determining means comprises selection means for selecting a hypertext mark-up language file for transmission from a plurality of hypertext mark-up language files stored in said storage means.

15 25.   An internet server as claimed in claim 23 wherein said determining means comprises generating means responsive to said comparison means for generating a hypertext mark-up language file for transmission.

26.   An internet server as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 15 15 to 25 wherein said
20 identification signal and said predetermined identification signal comprise hypertext transfer protocol identification signals.

27.   An internet server as claimed in claim 26 wherein said hypertext transfer protocol identification signal identifies a hypertext mark-up language file being run by
25 said user to generate said web page.

28.   An internet server as claimed in claim 25 ~~or claim 26~~ wherein said hypertext transfer protocol identification signal comprises the universal resource locator for a hypertext mark-up language file being run by said user to generate said web page.

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